

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of September 17, 2017      Psalm 102:18-22; Luke 18:1-7

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

- <sup>18</sup> Let this be recorded for a generation to come,  
so that a people yet unborn may praise the LORD:  
<sup>19</sup> that he looked down from his holy height,  
from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,  
<sup>20</sup> to hear the groans of the prisoners,  
to set free those who were doomed to die;  
<sup>21</sup> so that the name of the LORD may be declared in Zion,  
and his praise in Jerusalem,  
<sup>22</sup> when peoples gather together,  
and kingdoms, to worship the LORD.

~ Psalm 102:18-22

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup> He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup> In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?"

~ Luke 18:1-7

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

- <sup>18</sup> *Let this be written down for the next generation  
so that people not yet created will praise the LORD:*  
<sup>19</sup> *The LORD looked down from his holy summit,  
surveyed the earth from heaven,*  
<sup>20</sup> *to hear the prisoners' groans,  
to set free those condemned to death,*  
<sup>21</sup> *that the LORD's name may be declared in Zion  
and his praise declared in Jerusalem,*  
<sup>22</sup> *when all people are gathered together—  
all kingdoms—to serve the LORD.*

~ Psalm 102:18-22

*Jesus was telling them a parable about their need to pray continuously and not to be discouraged. <sup>2</sup> He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. <sup>3</sup> In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him, asking, 'Give me justice in this case against my adversary.' <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused but finally said to himself, I don't fear God or respect people, <sup>5</sup> but I will give this widow justice because she keeps bothering me. Otherwise, there will be no end to her coming here and embarrassing me." <sup>6</sup> The Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> Won't God provide justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he be slow to help them?"* ~ Luke 18:1-7

**Connection Questions:**

1. Can a prayer be prayed more than once? Why or why not?
2. Can you pray someone else's prayer? What meaning would that have?
3. Prayers don't expire. Why not?
4. What prayers have others handed down to you? What meaning do they have?

5. The Psalms have been called the "prayer book of the Bible." Is there a psalm which is particularly meaningful to you? What makes it so meaningful?
  
6. As a group, choose a psalm. Imagine Jesus praying it. When might he have? What would it mean in that context?
  
7. Choose another person from the Bible to imagine praying the psalm. What does it mean from the lips of this character? What does it mean for you to pray it?
  
8. Try writing a prayer as a class and practice praying it this week.